

furnish written documentation that they had "boots on the ground" in-country, making it virtually impossible for countless United States Navy and United States Air Force veterans to pursue their claims for benefits; many who had landed on Vietnamese soil could not produce proof due to incomplete or missing military records; moreover, personnel who had served on ships in the "Blue Water Navy" in Vietnamese territorial waters were, in fact, exposed to dangerous airborne toxins, which not only drifted offshore but also washed into streams and rivers draining into the South China Sea; and

Whereas, Warships positioned off the Vietnamese shore routinely distilled seawater to obtain potable water; a 2002 Australian study found that the distillation process, rather than removing toxins, in fact concentrated dioxin in water used for drinking, cooking, and washing; this study was conducted by the Australian Department of Veterans' Affairs after it found that Vietnam veterans of the Royal Australian Navy had a higher rate of mortality from Agent Orange-associated diseases than did Vietnam veterans from other branches of the military; when the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention studied specific cancers among Vietnam veterans, it found a higher risk of cancer among United States Navy veterans; and

Whereas, Agent Orange did not discriminate between soldiers on the ground and sailors on ships offshore, and legislation to recognize this tragic fact and restore eligibility for compensation and medical care to United States Navy and United States Air Force veterans who sacrificed their health for their country is critical; and

Whereas, When the Agent Orange Act passed in 1991 with no dissenting votes, congressional leaders stressed the importance of responding to the health concerns of Vietnam veterans and ending the bitterness and anxiety that had surrounded the issue of herbicide exposure; the United States Congress should reaffirm the nation's commitment to the well-being of all of its veterans and direct the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to administer the Agent Orange Act under the presumption that herbicide exposure in the Republic of Vietnam includes the country's inland waterways, offshore waters, and airspace; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to restore the presumption of a service connection for Agent Orange exposure to United States Navy and United States Air Force veterans who served on the inland waterways, in the territorial waters, and in the airspace of the Republic of Vietnam; and, be it further

*Resolved*, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

DAVID DEWHURST,  
*President of the Senate.*

JOE STRAUS,  
*Speaker of the House.*

PATSY SPAW,  
*Secretary of the Senate.*

ROBERT HANEY,  
*Chief Clerk of the House.*

Approved: Rick Perry, Governor.

#### HONORING JULIE REICHERT

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today to recognize Julie Reichert. On July 16, 2009, Julie received a Gold Medal while competing at the National Family, Career and Community Leaders of America National Leadership Conference. This is the highest award in the Nation for her FCCLA event.

She has been very active with her local chapter and has contributed greatly to her area through her service. Not only has she distinguished herself through her involvement, she has earned the respect of her family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Julie Reichert for her accomplishments with the National Family, Career and Community Leaders of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction in the National Leadership Conference competition.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

#### HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2009

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3183, the FY 2010 Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN CULBERSON

Bill Number: H.R. 3183

Account: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Construction General account

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: Harris County Flood Control District at 9900 Northwest Freeway, Suite 220, Houston, TX 77092.

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$11,018,000 to the Harris County Flood Control District. It is my understanding that the funding would be used for construction of a flood damage reduction project along Brays Bayou in Harris County, Texas.

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN CULBERSON

Bill Number: H.R. 3183

Account: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Investigations account

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: Harris County Flood Control District at 9900 Northwest Freeway, Suite 220, Houston, TX 77092.

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$100,000 to the Harris County Flood Control District. It is my understanding that the funding would be used for construction of a flood damage reduction project along White Oak Bayou in Harris County, Texas.

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN CULBERSON

Bill Number: H.R. 3183

Account: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Investigations account

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: Harris County Flood Control District at 9900 Northwest Freeway, Suite 220, Houston, TX 77092.

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$100,000 for the Harris County Flood Control District. It is my understanding that the funding would be used for oversight of a flood damage reduction project aimed at reducing the loss of life, injury, and property destruction in the Buffalo Bayou in Harris County, Texas.

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN CULBERSON

Bill Number: H.R. 3183

Account: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Construction General account

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: Port Authority of Houston, P.O. Box 2562, Houston, TX 77252.

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$500,000 for the Port Authority of Houston. It is my understanding that the funding would be used to add capacity for dredged material disposal sites along the Channel.

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN CULBERSON

Bill Number: H.R. 3183

Account: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Operations and Maintenance account

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: Port Authority of Houston, P.O. Box 2562, Houston, TX 77252.

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$15,063,000 for the Port Authority of Houston. It is my understanding that the funding would be used for operations and maintenance of the Channels, including dredging activities.

#### RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF JOSEPH W. TESTA AS AUDITOR OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO

#### HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2009

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Joseph W. Testa for his service to the people of Franklin County, Ohio.

Joe Testa has been a tireless advocate for good government, first serving as Franklin County Recorder from 1985 to 1992, and since then, as Franklin County Auditor. Throughout his career as an elected official, Joe acted as a resounding voice of fiscal responsibility.

Joe's career also showcased the finest level of professionalism. For more than 17 years, he ran one of the most effective and innovative county offices in the State of Ohio, and was consistently recognized as such by the County Auditor's Association of Ohio. As an early advocate of the potential of the internet and its benefits to local government, Joe's vision helped Franklin County government to become an example for other metropolitan areas in the region in how to maximize technology for public use.

In addition to his work with the county as an elected official, Joe made a lasting impression on the greater Central Ohio community. Driven by his deep faith, he has made service a priority throughout his life. Serving as an adjunct professor at The Ohio State University, and a